

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. VIII, No. 2, February, 1910

From Some Editorial Notes:

Annual Meeting.—The fortieth annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of California will be held at Sacramento, April 19, 20, and 21, 1910, under the administration of Dr. James H. Parkinson of Sacramento, president. . . .

Dr. Arberry Convicted.—The San Francisco County Medical Society and its attorney, Mr. Walter Kaufman, have indeed won a signal victory for decency and honesty in medicine by the conviction of one Dr. John J. Arberry of the crime of attempting to obtain money by false pretense, which verdict was secured after months of hard work, on January 13, 1909. . . . It is the first case of the kind in which a verdict of this sort has been secured in the United States, and it marks an epoch in the war of honesty and legitimate medical science against those dishonest and disreputable members of the profession they disgrace who follow the practices of the advertising quack. . . .

Sanitary Needs.—Of recent years a new field has been opened for properly equipped physicians which has not received the attention from our medical schools that it deserves. Dr. William F. Snow, a thoroughly trained sanitarian, and the secretary of the State Board of Health, says that there are few men available who possess the necessary education in preventive medicine to make them efficient officers of the public health. . . .

Prosecution of Quacks.—This whole question of the prosecution of illegal practitioners and of those who are licensed but are nevertheless following dishonest quackery, is a very large and a very important one. . . .

Tuberculosis Ordinance.—Probably no more significant legislation has been enacted in San Francisco during the past year than the ordinance relative to the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis, which recently became a law. . . .

Outrageous Treatment.—In two towns in our State most iniquitous action has been taken by the Town Trustees. At St. Helena and at Salinas, ordinances have been passed requiring a license of \$12 per year to practice medicine. . . .

From an article on "Importance of the Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Examinations in the Railway Service" by A. C. Seely, M.D., Roseburg, Oregon.

This is rather a long title, but I promise you a very short paper. This subject was selected because I feel convinced that the examination of the eye and ear beyond vision and audition receives too little attention, and the nose and throat none at all. . . .

From an article on "Amebiasis" by J. D. Long, Past Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service.

Since December 1, 1908, I have seen in the Marine Hospital and in the city of San Francisco 114 cases of amebiasis.

* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News

In the 1934 annual report of the Board of Medical Examiners recently submitted to Governor Merriam, comment is made on various impostors who have attempted to secure a California license on false claims of medical credentials. Two of them were reported by the Criminal Identification Bureau as having quite a record.

Mention is made of the arrest in Kansas City, Missouri, of William T. Gallagher and George M. Lindsay for violation of the federal postal laws, based on an asserted "diploma mill," which is said to have supplied medical and chiropractic diplomas for a specified price and to have involved one or two states in a claim that licenses to practice could be obtained on the "goods" furnished by this mill.

Regulation of the too prevalent broadcasting of worthless medical advice and claims for asserted curative value of proprietary drugs is urged, reference being made to specific cases.

Five revoked medical certificates were restored during the year.

Examination records show that 324 physicians and surgeons took the written examination, 92 per cent having passed and 7 per cent having failed. The larger percentage of failures came from foreign medical schools. Germany, Russia, Italy, Philippine Islands, and Canada all furnished applicants, the larger percentage, *i. e.*, eleven, being from German medical schools.

Ninety-nine reciprocity applicants were granted licenses, the larger number being based upon Illinois medical licenses. Fifty-seven licentiates of California sought registration by reciprocity in other states.

Thirty licentiates were called before the Board on charges of unprofessional conduct, the larger number, ten, being based on narcotic derelictions. Fifteen licenses were revoked; thirteen were placed on probation, and two hearings were pending for disposition in 1935.

A voluminous report of the Investigation Department, North and South, tabulated the activities in law enforcement.

Licentiates in the number of 249 died during the past year, special mention being made in the annual report of former Board members—Dr. P. T. Phillips, Dr. H. Miller Robertson, and Dr. H. A. L. Ryfkogel.

Nine licentiates filed documentary evidence re change of name, and Board records were adjusted in accordance therewith.

Reports relate Mrs. H. J. Smith on or about January 11, 1935, pleaded guilty in the courts of San Diego to a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and was sentenced to serve ninety days in the county jail, sentence suspended on condition of no further violation.

On December 7, 1934, Augusto Monasterio is reported to have paid in the courts of Los Angeles a fine of \$100, based on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act.

B. H. Duncan, reported as the bogus Lord Conyngham, Earl of Camperdown, etc., charged with violation of the Medical Practice Act, was on January 9,

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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